“All you’ve got to do is decide to go and the hardest part is over. So go!”
TONY WHEELER, CO-FOUNDER – LONELY PLANET

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PLAN YOUR TRIP
YOUR PLANNING TOOL KIT
Photos, itineraries, lists and suggestions to help you put together your perfect trip

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UNDERSTAND SLOVENIA
GET MORE FROM YOUR TRIP
Learn about the big picture, so you can make sense of what you see

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9781741799439 52499
GETTING THERE & AWAY

Entering the Country

Border formalities with Slovenia’s fellow European Union initiatives throughout the world. Lonely Planet offsets the carbon footprint of all staff and author travel.

DISTANCE

The altitude at which aircraft emit gases (including CO2) and particles also sets the carbon footprint of all staff and author travel. Contributions to portfolios of climate-friendly initiatives throughout the world. Lonely Planet offers people to estimate the carbon emissions generated by their journey and, for those who wish to do so, to offset the impact of the greenhouse gases emitted.

Every form of transport that relies on carbon-based fuel generates CO2, the main cause of human-induced climate change. Modern travel is dependent on aeroplanes, which contributes to their climate change impact. Many websites offer ‘carbon calculators’ that allow people to estimate the carbon emissions generated by their journey and, for those who wish to do so, to offset the impact of the greenhouse gases emitted.

Airports & Airlines

Ljubljana

Eng; Zgornji Brnik 130a, Brnik) 206 19 81; www.lju-airport.si/ (LJU/Aerodrom Ljubljana; Lynx Information Centre at Brnik, 27km north of Ljubljana. In the arrivals hall there's a terminal. Some nine car-rental outlets opposite the hotel-booking telephone and an ATM. Some nine car-rental outlets opposite the hotel-booking telephone and an ATM. Some nine car-rental outlets opposite the hotel-booking telephone and an ATM.

Slovenia’s only international scheduled flights is Ljubljana airport receiving regularly shared flights with Adria.

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Jož...
Every listing is recommended by our authors, and their favourite places are listed first

Look out for these icons:

- **TOP CHOICE** Our author’s top recommendation
- **A** A green or sustainable option
- **FREE** No payment required
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Behold this emerald green lake and picturesque castle (p76)

Scale this fortress wedged halfway up a cliff face (p134)

Enter the immense system of karst caves (p112)

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Ptuj
Enjoy a maze of red roofs and medieval streets (p172)

Ljubljana
Indulge in the perfect balance of size and quality of life (p34)
OUR WRITERS

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Coordinating Author, Plan Your Trip, Ljubljana, Gorenjska Based permanently in Prague, Mark has lived and worked in Central Europe for more than 20 years, first as a journalist for The Economist Group and then for Bloomberg News and Radio Free Europe/Radio Liberty. He’s a frequent visitor to Slovenia and a huge fan of Piran, Lake Bohinj and Ljubljana, among many other places. In addition to this book, Mark is co-author of the Lonely Planet guides to Prague, Romania and Poland.

Paul Clammer
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Steve Fallon
Understand Slovenia Steve has been travelling to Slovenia since the early 1990s, when almost no one but the Slovenes had ever heard of the place. Never mind, it was his own private Idaho for over a decade. Though on še govori slovensko kot jamski človek (he still speaks Slovene like a caveman), Steve considers part of his soul to be Slovenian, and returns as often as he can for a glimpse of the Julian Alps in the sun, a dribble of bučno olje (pumpkin-seed oil) and a dose of the ‘dual’.

Read more about Mark at: lonelyplanet.com/members/markbaker
Read more about Paul at: lonelyplanet.com/members/paulclammer
Read more about Steve at: lonelyplanet.com/members/stefallon
Whether you’ve got six days or 60, these itineraries provide the starting point for the trip of a lifetime. Want more inspiration? Head online to lonelyplanet.com/thorntree to chat with other travellers.

One Week
Mountain Majesty

Slovenia has mountains in spades. From Ljubljana to Predjama Castle, this itinerary is perfect for active travellers looking to make the most of their time.

Begin in Ljubljana, where you can buy any hiking gear you might need and bookstores stock excellent regional maps. From Ljubljana, make your way to Kamnik and the picturesque, high-altitude pastureland of Velika Planina. Then head back toward Kranj and continue north to impossibly cute Radovljica. Overnight here or a few kilometres north at Lake Bled.

Use Bled or nearby Lake Bohinj for forays into Triglav National Park. Both are popular approaches for scaling Mt Triglav. Proceed northward to the ski centre Kranjska Gora and the heart-stopping Vršič Pass. (Note the pass is closed in winter.) The road down deposits you in Primorska’s Soča Valley. Following the Soča River will bring you to the activities centre of Bovec and the WWI battlegrounds around Kobarid. From here, head down through Tolmin to Idrija. Keep going south and you’ll reach stunning Predjama Castle.
Travellers wanting to experience the highlights of the country’s alpine, karst and coastal regions should begin in the country’s capital, Ljubljana. Allow at least two nights to take in the sights, restaurants and beautiful riverside setting. Drive, train or take the bus north to Lake Bled. If you’ve got time, stop at one or both of the historic towns of Škofja Loka or Radovljica on your way.

Lake Bled merits at least a night’s stay to allow time to walk around the lake and take a pletna (gondola) to Bled Island. Plan for a longer sojourn if you intend to try an adventure outing, like rafting or canyoning.

Lovely Lake Bohinj, 26km southwest of Lake Bled and accessible by bus, makes for a more rustic, less touristy base and has the added advantage of direct views to Mt Triglav. Both Bled and Bohinj are good starting points for further exploration of Triglav National Park.

Make your way northward to Kranjska Gora, the country’s skiing capital and another good base for walking and hiking. It’s also the northern terminus of the spectacularly beautiful Vršič Pass, a high-altitude roadway that can be traversed by car, bus or bike during summer, but is closed to vehicles from November to April.

The Vršič Pass twists and turns for some 50km down to the country’s white-water rafting capital of Bovec. Overnight here or in nearby Kobarid, a pretty town with a Mediterranean feel, amazing WWI history and some of the country’s best restaurants.

Continue southward through Nova Gorica to the Vipava Valley, the centre of the Karst region that stretches southeast to the Croatian border. Little towns here, like Stanjel to the west, are rich in olives, ruby-red Teran wine, pršut (dry-cured ham) and red-tiled roofs.

Further south, following the main Hwy E70 to the coast near Divača, is the awe-inspiring Škocjan Caves, part of an immense system of limestone caves in this region.

From here, it’s just a skip to the coastal resorts of Portorož and Piran. If you’re looking for romance, choose Piran; if it’s sun and fun, Portorož is the centre of the action.

The return journey to Ljubljana passes through Postojna, another amazing cave.
Two Days to One Week
Karst & Coast

Combining the best of two worlds – the fun-filled coast and the evocative, sun-baked Karst – this itinerary is designed to be driven, but most major points can be reached by train or bus.

From Ljubljana follow the A1 motorway to Postojna, then continue to Divača and the awesome Škocjan Caves. If you have your own wheels, take some R&R at the bucolic oasis of Lipica.

Return to Divača and head southwest to Koper, an affordable coastal place to stay, then follow the coast to Izola, Piran, and Portorož, with all types of accommodation for different budgets.

To the south along the coast is Sečovlje and its famous salt pans, a relaxing antidote to brash Portorož.

A spur road just before the Croatian border crosses the Drnica River and links up with Route II, which takes you back to Ljubljana. At the Rižana exit, take a detour south for the Karst village of Hrastovlje and its wonderful church.

One Week
Wine & Spas

Eastern Slovenia is known for both wines and spas. This tour includes the best of each.

Start in Maribor, the region’s biggest city and cultural hub. Make your way south to the former Roman stronghold and thoroughly charming town of Ptuj.

Head east to Ormož, for the start of the important Jeruzalem-Ljutomer wine district, home to the country’s best whites. Walk or hike the wine trail here.

Return to Ptuj and head southwest into another important wine region, the Haloze Hills, celebrated for its pinot blanc, sauvignon and riesling. There’s a wonderful footpath here, too: the Haloze Highlands Trail.

Head southwest from the Haloze Hills to find atmospheric Rogaška Slatina, Slovenia’s oldest and largest spa. It’s a veritable ‘cure factory’ with a dozen hotels, treatments and therapies.

To the south stretches another well-known wine region: the Bizeljsko-Sremič area. This region is noted for its medium-dry whites and reds and for repnice, which are caves for storing wine. Not surprisingly, you’ll find another inviting spa nearby, the Terme Olimia. Return to Maribor via Celje.